



CALL FOR PAPERS

International Decade of the World's Indigenous Languages 2022–2032: Reflecting on Ways to Preserve, Revitalize and Promote Indigenous Languages

**Décennie internationale des langues autochtones 2022-2032 : réflexion sur
les moyens à mettre en œuvre afin de préserver, de revitaliser et de
promouvoir les langues autochtones**

Abstract

Call for papers for the publication of a thematic issue in the bilingual journal *Minorités linguistiques et société / Linguistic Minorities and Society* on how to preserve, revitalize and promote indigenous languages, a reflection that takes place in the context of the beginning of the International Decade of Indigenous Languages 2022–2032. The urgency to act has never been greater, as 40% of the world's 6,700 languages are threatened with extinction, the majority of which are indigenous languages. The disappearance of indigenous languages directly affects the individual and collective rights of members of indigenous communities, including freedom of thought, opinion and expression, as well as access to education, health and information, justice, decent jobs and participation in cultural life. Moreover, the extinction of these languages also threatens cultural diversity, and thus the common heritage of humanity, since they represent complex identities, cultures and knowledge systems forged and accumulated over thousands of years. For these reasons, this issue will report on best practices in language policies and measures targeting indigenous languages and will also look at the crucial role these languages play in various domains, in addition to the consequences that the inability to use indigenous languages can have on the enjoyment of fundamental rights and freedoms of indigenous peoples.

Announcement

The proposed thematic issue will aim to contribute to the body of knowledge on how to preserve, revitalize and promote indigenous languages. On the one hand, it will report on best practices in language policies and measures targeting indigenous languages. On the other hand, it will also look at the crucial role these languages play in the sociocultural, economic, environmental, legal and political spheres and the consequences that the inability to use indigenous languages may have on the enjoyment of fundamental rights and freedoms of indigenous peoples. Finally, the issue will discuss the potential importance of the preservation of indigenous languages for all of humanity.

The protection of indigenous traditional knowledge systems is inseparable from the languages that carry them. This issue will therefore explore, among other things, the way in which this knowledge can, or could be, mobilized to contribute to meeting many of the challenges facing our societies, such as those related to the environment. For traditional indigenous knowledge “represents a key resource for developing innovative solutions to combating hunger, climate change and protecting biodiversity” (UNESCO, 2021); indigenous languages also carry “unique and invaluable” knowledge for addressing social and economic challenges and achieving sustainable development goals (UN, 2021). Thus, while taking into account the risk of instrumentalizing this knowledge, the issue will question the appropriateness of knowledge mobilization—and therefore of protecting the languages that carry it—in the service of the well-being of humanity; it will also seek to explore the possible consequences of this mobilization for the peoples and communities that hold it.

TERMS OF SUBMISSION

Paper proposals should be submitted in the following format:

- the name of the author and his or her home institution;
- the title of the manuscript;
- and an abstract of 500 words (maximum) with references (no space limit).

Before November 15, 2022.

at the following email addresses:

- veronique.guevremont@fd.ulaval.ca
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A response indicating whether their proposal has been selected will be sent to authors on November 30, 2022.

Manuscript submission is scheduled for May 31, 2023. See the manuscript submission protocol [here](#).

ÉVALUATION

All manuscripts submitted for publication are subject to a double-blind review by at least two peers. The reviewers’ comments are intended to be constructive and to improve the text to meet scientific standards. Texts approved for publication are then linguistically revised to ensure that they meet linguistic standards while remaining consistent with scientific standards.

